

The Humane Society of the United States will

# PAY YOU UP TO \$5,000

for information leading to the arrest  
and conviction of a dogfighter.

If you suspect dogfighting in your  
neighborhood, call the police.

**YOUR IDENTITY WILL BE PROTECTED.**



For more details about  
the reward program, call  
The HSUS at 1-877-TIP-HSUS.



[ Animal Fighting and Cruelty ]

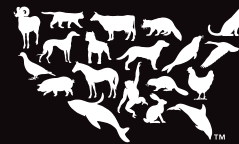
## ABOUT THE HSUS

The HSUS is the nation's largest  
and most powerful animal protection  
organization, backed by 11 million  
Americans, or one in every 28.  
Established in 1954, The HSUS seeks  
a humane and sustainable world for  
all animals, including people. We are  
America's mainstream force against  
cruelty, exploitation, and neglect and  
also the nation's most trusted voice  
extolling the human-animal bond.

To learn more about dogfighting,  
visit [humanesociety.org/animalfighting](http://humanesociety.org/animalfighting).



Celebrating Animals | Confronting Cruelty



THE HUMANE SOCIETY  
OF THE UNITED STATES

2100 L Street, NW Washington, DC 20037  
[humanesociety.org](http://humanesociety.org)

©2009 The HSUS. All rights reserved.  
Printed on recycled paper, acid free and elemental  
chlorine free, FSC-certified, with soy-based ink.

# DOGFIGHTING HURTS

Animals, children, communities,  
and you. Be part of the solution.



THE HUMANE SOCIETY  
OF THE UNITED STATES



**WHETHER IT'S AN IMPROMPTU FIGHT** on inner-city streets or a well-planned tournament at a discreet rural venue, dogfighting is everywhere. And in recent years, it has reached epidemic proportions. The Humane Society of the United States estimates that there are more than 40,000 people involved in organized dogfighting and 100,000 informal street dogfighters in the United States.

### What Happens in a Dogfight?

Dogs, usually pit bulls, are bred and trained to fight each other to the death or until one dog can't continue—all for the amusement of spectators and the profits from high-stakes gambling. Fights can last for hours, as the dogs are trained to continue even after suffering serious wounds. Dogs who can't fight are abandoned or mercilessly killed by electrocution or gunshot.

### How Does Dogfighting Affect People?

Dogfighting not only hurts animals but also endangers a community's safety. Illegal drugs and firearms are commonly found at the scene of animal fighting events. Young children brought to matches are desensitized to violence and taught that cruelty is acceptable.

Evidence shows that those who commit dogfighting crimes and other forms of animal abuse are more likely to be violent toward people. According to a three-year study by the Chicago Police Department, 65 percent of the people arrested for animal abuse crimes—including dogfighting—were also arrested for violent crimes against people.

### Is Dogfighting Illegal?

Yes, dogfighting is a felony in every state and a federal felony.



### Does My Community Have Dogfighting?

Dogfighting is pervasive and can take place in any community. Some signs include:

- A large number of pit bulls held in one location, especially multiple dogs who are chained and seem unsocialized
- Dogs with scars on their faces, front legs, hind ends, and thighs
- Dogfighting training equipment such as treadmills and tires hanging from trees
- Many people visiting a location at odd hours

### WHAT YOU CAN DO

- If you see any suspicious activity related to animal abuse or dogfighting, report it to local police or humane officers.
- Urge your local, state, and federal representatives to support better funding for enforcement of animal fighting laws.
- Write letters to the editors of your local newspapers about the cruelty and dangers of dogfighting. This raises awareness in your community and can persuade others to take action.
- Write letters to law enforcement officials, such as your local sheriff, police department, and prosecutors, urging them to take the issue seriously.
- Volunteer at, or adopt from, your local shelter. Remind people that the dogs are the victims in animal fighting!
- Learn the truth about pit bulls, many of whom make great pets. Spread the word—one of the best ways to help these animals is by dispelling the stigma associated with the breed.

